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22 JULY 1961

CIA/OCI/SHELDON

GENERAL CLIFTON (EYES ONLY)

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PRESIDENTS INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

1. INDICATIONS OF A COUP AGAINST TSHOMBE.

INTERIOR MINISTER MUNONGO IS ABOUT TO TAKE OVER IN KATANGA AND MAY ALREADY HAVE DONE SO. MUNONGO, A STRONG SUPPORTER OF KATANGAN INDEPENDENCE, HAS REACTED TO UN AND WESTERN PRESSURE FOR A UNIFIED CONGO BY THREATENING TO DEAL WITH OLIZENGA AND THE USSR. THE AMERICAN CONSUL IN ELISABETHVILLE SAYS HE IS NOT BLUFFING. MUNONGO'S ACTIVITIES HAVE CREATED A SITUATION IN WHICH DISCIPLINE IN THE KATANGAN ARMY IS BREAKING DOWN WHILE TENSIONS ARE RISING. CLASHES WITH UN TROOPS ARE LIKELY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS; THE UN WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO DISARM THE KATANGAN FORCES.

2. ATTEMPT TO REMOVE QASIM INCREASINGLY LIKELY. THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO BACK KUWAIT HAS ISOLATED HIM INTERNATIONALLY.

MANY IRAQI POLITICAL AND ARMY ELEMENTS.

HE HAS ALSO ALIENATED

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NOTES

A. ANOTHER SOVIET TEST ICBM FAILED IN FLIGHT EARLY THIS MORNING--THE NINTH FAILURE THIS YEAR. TWELVE OTHERS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THE RESULTS OF TWO ARE UNKNOWN. [REDACTED]

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B. THE REFUGEE FLOW INTO WEST BERLIN THIS WEEK IS RUNNING EVEN HIGHER THAN LAST WEEK. THE EAST GERMAN PRESS IS FOR THE FIRST TIME TAKING PUBLIC NOTICE OF "THIS HUMAN TRADE." [REDACTED]

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C. THE UK HAS ASKED FOR A RESTRICTED NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY. WE ANTICIPATE A PITCH FOR GREATER WEST GERMAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF BRITISH FORCES IN GERMANY. [REDACTED]

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D. NASIR TOLD AMBASSADOR BADEAU THAT A REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON PALESTINE WOULD BE FORWARDED ABOUT 1 AUGUST. HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED WHEN SIMILAR LETTERS WERE SENT TO OTHER ARAB STATES. [REDACTED]

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E. NASIR PROMULGATED NEW NATIONALIZATION LAWS FOR SYRIA TODAY. THIS APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR MOVE, BUT WE AS YET HAVE NO SPECIFICS. [REDACTED]

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F. THE ARREST OF NATIONAL FRONT LEADERS IN TEHRAN EARLY YESTERDAY EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED ANY MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS. [REDACTED]

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G. PRINCE SOUPHANNOUVONG HAS REJECTED SOUVANNA'S PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF THE THREE PRINCES AT PHEOM PENH; BOUN OUN HAD ACCEPTED. SOUVANNA APPEARS FOR THE MOMENT TO BE ACTING SOMEWHAT MORE INDEPENDENTLY OF HIS COMMUNIST SUPPORTERS. [REDACTED]

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H. NATIONALIST DEMONSTRATIONS IN PROTEST AGAINST THE PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION MAY LEAD TO VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA THIS WEEKEND. THE 20-1 WHITE ELECTORATE WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSALS WEDNESDAY. [REDACTED]

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SPECIAL ITEM

TUNISIA (AS OF 0600) [REDACTED]

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BY LATE 21 JULY FRENCH PARATROOPERS WERE REPORTED IN CONTROL OF ALL VITAL AREAS OF BIZERTE CITY. SCATTERED FIGHTING IS STILL BEING REPORTED; TUNISIA CLAIMS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ATTACKED OUTLYING VILLAGES. MUCH OF THE REMAINING TUNISIAN ARMY AND NATIONAL GUARD--APPARENTLY OBEIENT TO BOURGUIBA'S LAST-DITCH INSTRUCTIONS--ARE REPORTED TO HAVE "TAKEN TO THE HILLS TO CONTINUE

GUERRILLA WARFARE," AND THE UNARMED VOLUNTEERS, ABANDONING THEIR ENTRENCHMENTS AND BLOCKADES, ARE REPORTED HEADING TOWARD TUNIS, A PRESS REPORT FROM PARIS CLAIMS THAT, WITH THE OBJECTIVES IN BIZERTE ACHIEVED, THE FRENCH COMMAND WOULD NOT TAKE FURTHER ACTION UNLESS ATTACKS WERE RENEWED AGAINST BASE INSTALLATIONS; IT ADDED THAT AS SOON AS BIZERTE RETURNED TO "NORMAL," FRANCE WOULD OFFER A CEASE-FIRE AND DECLARE ITS READINESS TO OPEN TALKS ON THE STATUS OF THE BASE.

WITH THE APPROACHES TO THE BIZERTE BASE IN FRENCH HANDS, PARIS WILL BE EAGER TO AVOID FURTHER MILITARY ACTION IN THE HOPE THAT AN EARLY CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED. FRENCH MILITARY EXTREMISTS MAY STILL BE TEMPTED TO TRY TO EXTEND OPERATIONS, HOWEVER, WITH THE INTENTION OF EVENTUALLY SPARKING AN ARMY MOVE AGAINST THE 15,000 ALGERIAN REBEL FORCES ON TUNISIAN SOIL. IF FRENCH AIRCRAFT, TANKS AND MOTORIZED FORCES HAVE CROSSED OVER THE BORDER FROM ALGERIA AND ATTACKED

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TUNISIAN MILITARY POINTS AND HAVE OCCUPIED WATERING PLACES IN SOUTHERN TUNISIA, PARIS MAY BE FACED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY WITH A TICKLISH DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM IN CALLING A HALT TO SUCH OPERATIONS OR ORDERING A WITHDRAWAL.

THERE ARE NO REPORTS AS TO THE CONDITION OF THE MILITARY-CIVILIAN CARAVAN ENROUTE TO PLANT THE TUNISIAN FLAG SOME 25 MILES SOUTH OF THE TUNISIAN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY WHICH YESTERDAY WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN STRAFED BY FRENCH AIRCRAFT.

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TUNISIAN DEFENSE MINISTER DAHI LADGHAM URGENTLY REQUESTED ON 21 JULY THAT THE UNITED STATES "INTERVENE TO HALT" FRENCH OCCUPATION OF BIZERTE. OTHER TUNISIAN OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT BOURGUIBA WAS RELYING HEAVILY ON THE UN AND, PARTICULARLY,

THE US TO BRING A HALT TO FRENCH MILITARY ACTION. AN ANTI-AMERICAN TONE IS BECOMING EVIDENT IN TUNISIAN RADIO BROADCASTS WITH POINTED REFERENCES TO THE FACT THAT FRANCE IS USING AMERICAN B-26 PLANES IN BOMBING RAIDS. WINDOWS OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN TUNIS WERE BROKEN APPARENTLY IN PROTEST TO THE USE OF AMERICAN PLANES DURING A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE ADJACENT FRENCH EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH MOST DEMONSTRATIONS ARE ORDERLY, POLICE PATROLS ARE NOW ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS AND RIFLES WITH FIXED BAYONETS.

THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT THE US AIRLIFT FROM THE CONGO THE 3200 TUNISIAN TROOPS WHICH BOURGUIBA HAS ASKED THE UN COMMAND TO RELEASE. THE RETURN OF THESE TROOPS WOULD BE A PSYCHOLOGICAL RATHER THAN A MILITARY ASSET TO BOURGUIBA WHO APPARENTLY NEVER ORDERED THE MAJOR PORTION OF HIS ARMY, WHICH HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN MANEUVERS IN WESTERN TUNISIA FOR THE PAST MONTH, INTO ACTION IN BIZERTE.

IN THE UN, THE TUNISIANS WILL PRESS FOR A RESOLUTION DESPITE

THEIR BELIEF THAT FRANCE WOULD PROBABLY EXERCISE ITS VETO. THE TUNISIANS ARE EMPHASIZING THAT THEY WILL CONSIDER THE VOTING ON ANY RESOLUTION AS A "TEST OF FRIENDSHIP" AND CLAIM THAT BOURGUIBA AND HIS GOVERNMENT WILL STAND OR FALL ON THEIR SUCCESS IN PROSECUTING BIZERTE EVACUATION.

HAVING RECEIVED NUMEROUS PLEDGES OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT, TUNISIA HAS REQUESTED AN "URGENT AND EXTRAORDINARY" MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH TUNISIA JOINED THE ARAB LEAGUE THREE YEARS AGO, IT IMMEDIATELY WITHDREW ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN A DISPUTE WITH NASIR AND ONLY PROVISIONALLY ATTENDED THE JANUARY MEETING IN BAGHDAD. SUCH A SESSION WOULD BE LARGELY A GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY AND UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE ANY PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR BOURGUIBA.

ALGERIAN REBEL SUPPORT FOR BOURGUIBA APPARENTLY IS CONDITIONAL AND WILL SERVE MAINLY TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS FROM TUNISIA AFTER ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE IS ACHIEVED. THE ALGERIAN

STATEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY AND OFFER OF SUPPORT WERE REPORTED TO

HAVE BEEN DECIDED ON BY THE PROVISIONAL ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT AFTER PROLONGED DISCUSSION ON 20 JULY. THE PAG WHICH IS SERIOUSLY IRRITATED AT BOURGUIBA POINTEDLY LIMITED STATEMENTS TO BIZERTE AND EXCLUDED ANY REFERENCE TO TUNISIAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE SOUTH. THE PAG IS SAID TO BELIEVE THAT THE BOURGUIBA OVERPLAYED HIS HAND WITH REGARD TO BIZERTE. ALTHOUGH ALGERIAN VOLUNTEERS ARE REPORTED TO BE RELISTING FOR TUNISIAN SERVICE, THEIR FUNCTION MAY BE LIMITED TO "PROTECTION" OF THE TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN BORDER.

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(NOTE: UNDERSTAND FROM BROWLEY SMITH THAT SECRETARY RUSK GIVING PERSONAL ATTENTION TO TUNISIAN PLEA THAT US QUOTE INTERVENE TO HALT UNQUOTE FRENCH ATTACKS)